

the American League Championship Series for a pennant win. This was the first year the Royals took the field in search for a World Series title. Unfortunately, the Royals would lose the nail-biting seven game series. However, that defeat only prompted Brett to drive the team further. In 1983, Brett hit a two-run homer in the top of the 9th inning to put the Royals in the lead over the Yankees only to be called out on a technicality, prompting Brett to storm the field in raging protest. "The Pine Tar Incident," as it would be known from that point forward, would forever be hailed in baseball history, even inspiring song-writer Lorde to draft a song about Brett's reaction to being tossed out of the game. The Royals were making their mark on baseball history and the fans were cheering them on along the way.

In 1985, during the I-70 Series Showdown against the St. Louis Cardinals, KC's Bret Saberhagen and the all-star team finally brought home the Commissioners Trophy. Royal's stars such as Frank White, Willie Wilson, Dan Quisenberry, and many others mounted a comeback rarely seen in baseball, roaring back from a 3-1 series deficit. The Royals would have many ups and downs before they would win another pennant or be crowned as World Series champions; however, they continued to energize fans with greats such as: Bo Jackson, Carlos Beltran, Mike Sweeney, and many more. In 2014, the Royals would once again take their shot at the World Series. As fans continued to "believe" in the Royals, their eyes were glued to their screens as our boys in blue raced towards the post-season for the first time in nearly 30 years. In a stunning wild-card clinch, the Royals boasted a crowd-inspiring winning streak, winning eight consecutive games and securing their place as American League Champions. They went on to face the San Francisco Giants in their first World Series appearance since 1985. Sadly, our star-studded team fell in seven games, but continued to remind fans that we would be "forever Royal."

Just as the sun sets, it is sure to rise the next morning. Therefore, as the next season began, the Royals—lead by all-star and fan favorites like Eric Hosmer, Mike Moustakas, Salvador "Salvy" Perez, Alex Gordon, and Lorenzo Cain—would yet again drive us towards another pennant win. With an even more focused effort, the Royals would head into the All-Star break, with the best record in the American league. Based primarily on the momentum from fans and experience from the previous season, the Royals won another American League Pennant and were heading back to the World Series to face the New York Mets. This time, the Royals secured their crown in only five games, solidifying their victory with a Game 5 rally to tie in the 9th inning and a five-run smattering in the 12th inning. This year, the Royals returned home with their second Commissioner's Trophy.

Like many cities across the country, the Royals dawned their crown and headed toward main street for their victory day parade. Like every other parade, they were welcomed by firetrucks, marching bands, trolleys, and floats. However, as the parade route came to close at the crossroads of the Historic Union Station and the National World I Museum and Memorial, our boys in blue were welcomed by nearly 800,000 cheering fans celebrating a city-wide victory and uniting people across all spectrums. On this day, I believe, every base-

ball fan across the country was cheering for the Royals.

Mr. Speaker, please join with me as we commemorate the 50th Anniversary season of the Kansas City Royals. The historic contributions of Kansas City's commitment to baseball will live on through our legacy and as we continue to inspire the next generation baseball fans.

ENDANGERED SALMON AND FISHERIES PREDATION PREVENTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2018

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2083) to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to reduce predation on endangered Columbia River salmon and other non-listed species, and for other purposes:

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 2083, the Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act. This bill will help reduce sea lion predation on threatened and endangered fish populations.

Salmon and steelhead are an important part of our heritage in the Pacific Northwest, and they are facing devastating threats. At present thirteen salmon and steelhead populations in the Columbia River, Willamette River, and Snake River systems are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Because of successful conservation efforts under the protection of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, California sea lions have fully rebounded and have reached carrying capacity. Many of the thriving species are moving up the Columbia River for easy access to migrating salmon and steelhead. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, between 2002 and 2015 California sea lions consumed an estimated 46,000 salmonids within a quarter mile of the Bonneville Dam. It is unlikely that we will see the necessary recovery of threatened and endangered fish populations without responding to the ongoing predation by sea lions in the region.

Oregon's economic vitality relies on the health of the Pacific Ocean and the Columbia River. The natural resources in our region support a significant portion of our economy, and we are very vulnerable to changes to our ecosystem. Healthy salmon and steelhead runs support the commercial and recreational fishing industry, guiding and outdoor retail businesses, restaurants, and coastal communities that benefit from tourism. In addition to the troubling effects on the region's ecosystem, sea lion predation is harmful to tribal fisheries. Tribes have fishing rights and a deep cultural and historical connection to the fish populations threatened by sea lions. The health of native fish runs is dependent on Congressional action to protect these threatened species from sea lion predation.

This bill will allow for more efficient intervention by allowing states and tribes to apply for permits to remove sea lions along the Columbia River and its tributaries. I am pleased to

see changes to this bill in its amended form, including the removal of language that would undermine the National Environmental Policy Act. The revised language is the result of negotiations with a coalition of local stakeholders, tribes, and agencies in Oregon and Washington State. I appreciate the Ranking Member's concerns that this bill only addresses one of the many threats facing our salmon and steelhead populations, but it is an important step toward mitigating the damage to the fish population. We must continue to address the threat of sea lion predation and avoid further loss of irreplaceable species of salmon and steelhead in our region. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 295.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHANCELLOR DAVID O. BELCHER

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and memory of Dr. David O. Belcher, Chancellor of Western Carolina University. Dr. Belcher was a light in his community, always encouraging and pouring into the people around him through his passion for higher education, embodiment of service, and Catamount pride.

A native of Barnwell, South Carolina, Dr. David O. Belcher began his career as a faculty member at Missouri State University. Prior to arriving at Western Carolina University, he was Provost and Vice Chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Dr. Belcher began his tenure as Chancellor at Western Carolina University on July 1st, 2011. This date will be etched in WCU's history as a starting point for accelerated growth and positive change for the institution and Western North Carolina. Dr. Belcher crafted a 2020 Vision program to focus on the Western Carolina University's future, along with a development plan that has been essential to tremendous campus growth and transformation.

Dr. Belcher cared for the faculty, staff, and students of WCU, and took an active role of service in Western North Carolina. Dr. Belcher served on the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Arboretum and the Asheville Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Belcher also served on the Board of Trustees of Harris Regional Hospital and Swain County Hospital. Dr. Belcher was an accomplished pianist and brought joy to many with his enthusiasm. His passion, determination, kindness, and ceaseless energy will forever be imprinted on the hearts of those who knew him.

Dr. David O. Belcher will forever be highly regarded, remembered and loved amongst his

colleagues throughout the state of North Carolina, particularly at Western Carolina University. Dr. Belcher's wife, Susan Belcher, the Belcher family, and the community of Western Carolina University are in my prayers during this time. It was a privilege to know Chancellor Belcher and, on behalf of the people of Western North Carolina, I am honored to celebrate his life and recognize his many outstanding achievements.

FAIRNESS IN POLITICAL ADVERTISING ACT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce my bill, the Fairness in Political Advertising Act. It's time to level the playing field for viable candidates to compete against campaigns bankrolled by special interests. My bill would provide this access. It would require television stations to make available 2 hours of free advertising broadcast time during each even-numbered year, to each qualified political candidate in a statewide or national election.

The direction we are headed, only millionaires or corporate interests will have a seat at the representative table. This is unacceptable in our democracy.

Of the money raised in political campaigns, the largest expense for campaigns is advertising. Even today in this internet world, most dollars are still spent on television ads. In the 2014 midterms, \$2.8 billion was spent on political television ads. In 2018, Cook Political Report estimates \$2.4 billion will be spent on local broadcast and another \$850 million for local cable.

The math is clear: to be a viable candidate in America today, you need an incredible amount of capital. Our Fathers would be ashamed of this truth.

We must return to an era of access for all. Mr. Speaker, I urge you to bring the Fairness in Political Advertising Act to the floor for a vote today and work to level the playing field for all candidates who want to participate in our democracy. Access should not require a campaign bankrolled by special interests. I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 22, 2018, I missed votes because I was unavoidably detained due to a death in the family.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 287; and YEA on Roll Call No. 288.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF THE 53RD WEATHER RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON

HON. CHARLIE CRIST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Mr. CRIST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, the famed "Hurricane Hunters." This group of brave men and women from across the country save countless lives each year by literally "flying into the eye of the storm," to collect data unattainable by other means. In communities across Florida, we have seen firsthand how critical this information is to hurricane preparedness and recovery.

The "Hurricane Hunters" are a component of the 403rd Wing at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi. Serving the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, they are the only operational unit in the world, flying weather reconnaissance on a regular basis. Their 20 aircrews consistently fly into tropical storms and hurricanes to fulfill their mission when and where it is most critically needed.

Early and accurate detection is key to providing millions of Americans ample time to prepare and evacuate. The 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron is on constant standby, and can be deployed to up to three storms at once—crucial during a busy storm season. The 53rd works closely with the National Hurricane Center and NOAA to collect and relay real-time data from the center of the storm, the backbone of public weather alerts and warnings.

While modern satellites have greatly improved our ability to analyze storms at a distance, the data collected through firsthand observation provides a level of detail that remote analysis cannot match. By providing this information, the 53rd reduces the "cone of uncertainty," projecting the storm's path, by nearly 30 percent. These enhanced projections provide critical lead time to prepare and respond, enhancing the protection of lives and property.

In a typically male-dominated field, the 53rd Squadron also stands out. With six female officers, they serve as role models for little girls everywhere who love science and dream of serving their country.

I am humbled to honor the legacy of our Hurricane Hunters, who put their lives on the line every day to protect Floridians and the American people from tropical storms and hurricanes. I thank them for all that they do, risking their lives in service to the public.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMY WARRANT OFFICER CORPS

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the Army Warrant Officer Corps.

The Army Warrant Officer Corps was established on July 9, 1918, to serve as the technical foundation for the U.S. Army. Today,

Army Warrant Officers serve as technical experts, combat leaders, trainers, or advisers who fall into one of two categories: Aviators or Technicians. Army Warrant Officers serve on active duty, U.S. Army Reserve, and Army National Guard. I am proud that candidates are trained at the Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS) administered by the Warrant Officer Career College at Fort Rucker in the Wiregrass region of Alabama's Second Congressional District.

I recently introduced House Resolution 947, legislation to designate July 9th as "Warrant Officer Day." Since the Corps' establishment, Army Warrant Officers have continually demonstrated superb expertise and professionalism in carrying out the objectives of the U.S. Army. This resolution is a small token of appreciation for the service and sacrifices of the brave men and women who have and are currently serving as Army Warrant Officers.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to acknowledge the Army Warrant Officer's centennial anniversary and to celebrate this special occasion with those who serve.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL JOSEPH M. MURRAY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Colonel Joseph M. Murray for his service as Commander at Marine Corps Base Quantico. Colonel Murray has served as Commander at Marine Corps Base Quantico since the summer of 2015, during which time he has provided extensive support and leadership for the Quantico community.

Colonel Murray was born and raised in Washington, D.C., graduating from Gonzaga College High School in the District. He has long been dedicated to serving our great Nation, as he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps following his graduation from Ohio Wesleyan University. Since commissioning, he has held many operational assignments, including tours with 2nd Marine Division Camp Lejeune, North Carolina with 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 1st BN 2nd Marines, and 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion. He also served as the Deputy G-3, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, and commanded 2nd Supply Battalion during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Serving as Commander of Marine Corps Base Quantico is the newest adornment to his extensive list of military accomplishments, and I am extremely grateful for Colonel Murray's service to Marine Corps Base Quantico and our great Nation.

I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with Colonel Murray on several different occasions on behalf of our men and women in uniform residing in Virginia's First Congressional District. I extend my best wishes to Colonel Joseph M. Murray as his Change of Command approaches and he embarks on his next journey with the Marine Corps. He has proven a phenomenal leader, and I am certain that he will continue to lead with the confidence and commitment he has shown as Commander of Marine Corps Base Quantico as he continues his career as a Marine.